

## THE ARGUS.

Published daily at 1624 Second avenue, Rock Island, Ill. (Entered at the postoffice as second-class matter.)

Rock Island Member of the Associated Press.

BY THE J. W. POTTER CO.

TERMS—Ten cents per week by carrier, in Rock Island; \$2 per year by mail in advance.

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Telephones in all departments. Central Union, Rock Island 145, 1145 and 2145.



Friday, February 21, 1914.

A Ponca chief has just died in Oklahoma at the age of 111, but probably he never ate any of the health foods.

Now the English suffragettes have burned a Carnegie library, it becomes possible for Andy to give away another.

Harold McCormick laughs at the report that he intends flying across the Atlantic in his airship. Harold is not the only one who has laughed at the report.

The proper chaser for every crime committed nowadays is the information that bloodhounds have been sent for, and somehow or other that's the last you ever hear of the hounds.

At last we are to have a practical test of government ownership of railroads. The Alaska bill has gone through both houses with a whoop and will be immediately signed by the president.

Castillo, the Mexican bandit, emphatically denies that he is guilty of the outrages credited to him. In the face of this denial a check for \$1,000, given to him as ransom by an American, was found. Cross the river with Castillo the first dark night and let General Villa do the rest.

The fat man had hardly become reconciled to the fact that nobody loves him when a life insurance expert announced that abnormally slim men outlive fat men. The same week another cherished theory is exploded by a 300-pound editor in Long Island freezing to death.

A cop is going to censor, the street garb of Elkhart, Ind., young women. Abraham Borisoff was arrested while fixing his baby's buggy on Sunday for performing manual labor on the Sabbath in New York. The police of Montclair, New Jersey closed a suffragette meeting Sunday because the chief of police thought it was like vaudeville. Who dares say we don't live in "the land of the free?"

## FARMERS STAND BY JAMES.

The Illinois Farmers' Institute this week, after hearing an address by Governor Eberhardt of Minnesota, took a flyer in the realm of school education, by adopting a resolution objecting to any curtailment of the powers of President James in the matter of the appointment of teachers at the Illinois University.

It is said that the farmers are not mad at President James because he is not a mirror of fashion.

## A STRANGE CRITICISM.

In a recent issue of his magazine Senator La Follette criticizes President Wilson's suggestion of a law authorizing and directing the interstate commerce commission to superintend and regulate railway finance. "And," says the senator, "he wants it at once; and the railroads want it, and want it at once, too. After the packers were caught with the goods and were proved to have been selling diseased meats, they were eager to have government inspection and branding. So the railroads want a mass of rotten, lumpy-jaw securities sprinkled with formaldehyde and basted in benzoin of soda. Then, smelling sweet and clean, and marked 'inspected and passed by the government,' we shall have railway finance ready for a joy ride."

What would Senator La Follette have the government do? Remain inert and inactive and permit the Morgans, the Harrimans and the Yoakums to flood the country with security issues having no value but that represented by water back of them? Permit these securities to pass at fictitious and high values into the hands of innocent purchasers paying for them in good faith, and let the Morgans, the Harrimans and the Yoakums continue to pile up great profits from watered stocks and bonds? The people must take one or the other horn of the dilemma. They must either permit "frenzied finance" to go on unchecked, or establish regulation over it. They must permit exploitation of the investor or assist the investor in protecting himself. They must be either individualistic or paternalistic. They have been individualistic and on every side is evidence of the folly of leaving human greed unleashed, as we would behold sad evidence of folly should we repeal the statutes penalizing theft in other forms, burglary, and bank wrecking. It may be that government regula-

tion of securities would by indirection give value not now inherent in them to railroad issues. If it should do so, that would be a regrettable circumstance. But water gone over the wheel can't be called back. At best the people can merely control the water in the dam in protection of investors for the future, not merely, but in protection also of shippers and, in the end, consumers, who pay the freight.

## THE ALASKAN RAILROAD EXPERIMENT.

Provision has been made for the construction of a government railroad or railroads in Alaska at an authorized cost of \$40,000,000, to be raised by an issue of three per cent 30-year bonds.

The chief purpose of this is to open the coal fields of the interior. The railroad measure to be followed by the introduction in both the house and the senate of a bill framed by Secretary of the Interior Lane for the development of the coal lands which are to be retained in government possession. This provides for a survey of all coal lands in the territory and for the reservation of 5,120 acres in the Bering river field and 7,580 acres in the Natanuska field to be worked by the government itself, to be used in the construction and operation of its railroads, for the requirements of the navy, for national protection, or for the relief of oppressive conditions brought about through the monopoly of coal.

The Journal of Commerce, from which is gleaned these facts, says: The rest of the coal fields, under the provisions of the bill, would be leased to individuals or corporations, to be worked in blocks of 40 acres or multiples thereof up to not more than 2,560 acres, or 64 times the unit. The terms of the lease would include a royalty of 2 cents a ton of coal mined, payable monthly, and an annual rental of 25 cents an acre for the first year, 50 cents for each of the next four years, and \$1 an acre thereafter up to the limit of 20 years, when a re-adjustment of terms and conditions would be made by congress.

The income from rentals and royalties would be paid into a special fund for Alaskan development and for helping to pay the cost of the government railroads. The bill providing for the construction and operation of the railroads, create an "Alaskan Railway Redemption Fund," into which is to be paid 75 per cent of "all moneys derived from the lease, sale or disposal of any of the public lands in Alaska, or any of the coal or mineral contents thereof or the timber thereon," as well as the "net earnings of said railroad or railroads above maintenance charges and operating expenses."

The railroad bill having already been passed, and chiefly for the purpose of opening up communication with the coal fields, it is to be presumed that this measure for developing those fields will follow, if not at this session, in due time thereafter. This will begin the experiment of government ownership of railroads and natural resources by the government, to be operated in its own and the people's interests. It may prove the advantage of government ownership of lines of transportation and the advantages of such ownership and operation to the people. It will take time to establish the effect this will have upon the country. But whether the experiment shall prove a success or not, it will be well worth the cost.

"Knowledge is in every country the surest basis of public happiness."—Speech to congress, Jan. 8, 1790.

"Promote, then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."—Farewell address, Sept. 17, 1796.

"(Education) contributes to the security of a free constitution in various ways: By convincing those who are intrusted with the public administration that every valuable end of government is best answered by the enlightened confidence of the people, and by teaching the people themselves to know and value their own rights; to discern and provide against invasions of them; to distinguish between oppression and necessary exercise of

## "The Young Lady Across the Way"



On the other hand, the young lady across the way, having invited us to dinner, asked us how we liked her peau de peche and we said that it was very nice indeed, but the fact was we had enjoyed the other courses so thoroughly that we hadn't had much appetite left for the dessert.

## Capital Comment

BY OLYDE H. TAVENNER  
Congressman from the Fourteenth District.

(Special Correspondence of The Argus.)  
Washington, D. C., Feb. 19.—The cry to save the radium supply of the United States for the entire public has probably come too late.

According to confidential information which has just been received by the department of the interior, the known radium lands of the United States—and this means the chief known supply of the world—has fallen into the hands of prospectors within the space of two weeks' time. Any law which congress may now enact to guarantee a government monopoly of the priceless metal will probably prove abortive.

Thus has the government missed its greatest opportunity of the present century to preserve to the people one of the country's most precious resources. Future generations of the sick will probably have to pay tribute to private owners of this great curative.

While it is a mistake to advertise any cure as absolute until time has proven it so, yet as nearly as science can determine today radium is a cure for certain forms—the external—cancer. The same government experts who rejected the Friedman tuberculosis serum, are about convinced that the remarkable cases of Dr. Kelly of Baltimore prove the curative power of radium in the case of cancer.

Seventy-five thousand Americans die annually of cancer. Radium is their great hope. There is no reason for disbelieving that future experiments will show its curative power on all cancers. Dr. Kelly, who has been working with it for six years, has been carried by enthusiasms out of the usual reticent calm of the scientists. His brother physicians are calling him unethical for advertising

the radium cure. But Dr. Kelly has seen miracles unfolded before his eyes, and the ethics of the situation do not appeal to him. Nor do they appeal to the government scientists who have witnessed some of the radium cures.

"We will have to wait five years to see if the cancers reappear," say the conservative physicians. "If they do we will treat them with radium again," replies Kelly, who calls radium variously "the invisible surgeon's knife" and "the light from heaven."

All of the American radium supply is in the carnotite ore lands of the Paradox valley in Colorado and Utah, so called because the river crosses the valley instead of running down the middle of it. Here are 400,000 acres of radium land. It is the greatest supply in the world. All of the world's radium produced in 1911 and 1912 came from this valley. There are in this country today only two grams of pure radium, one gram of which is owned by Dr. Kelly. It is estimated that it will be possible to take 900 grams of radium from the Paradox valley, enough to treat every case of cancer in the United States.

It was planned by Secretary Lane and others to preserve this supply as a government monopoly, distributing it among the various hospitals of the public health service, where cancer cases should be treated free. But while the agitation for this plan was in progress, there was a rush of prospectors from Denver and Salt Lake City to the Paradox valley, and in a little while all of the 400,000 acres had been staked off in mining claims. Since registration of these claims is done in state offices, it will be three years before the government can know officially that the land is gone, since the prospectors have three years in which to file claims for patents on the land.

Senator Thomas' bill intends to undo the evil. It provides that all claims for radium land taken after Jan. 15, 1914, must be sold to the government. But this constitutes what is known as a retroactive law, a thing which has been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court.

## Washington on Public Education

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lawful authority, between burdens proceeding from a disregard to their convenience and those resulting from the inevitable exigencies of society; to discriminate the spirit of liberty from that of licentiousness, cherishing the first, avoiding the last, and uniting a speedy but temperate vigilance against encroachments with an inviolable respect to law."—Speech to congress, Jan. 8, 1790.

"In a country like this, where equal liberty is enjoyed, where every man may reap his own harvest, and where there is so ample a field for every mercantile and mechanical exertion, if there can not be money found to answer the common purposes of education, it is evident that there is something amiss in the ruling political power, which requires a steady, regulating, and energetic hand to correct and control it."—Letter from Mount Vernon, April 25, 1788.

"A plan for the establishment of a university in the federal city has frequently been the subject of conversation, but in what manner it is proposed to commence this important institution, on how extensive a scale, the means by which it is to be effected, how it is to be supported, or what progress is made in it, are matters altogether unknown to me. . . . I have greatly wished to see a plan adopted by which the arts, sciences and belles-lettres could be taught in their fullest extent . . . and (which with me is a consideration of great magnitude) by assembling the youth from the different parts of this rising republic, contributing from their intercourse and interchange of information to the removal of prejudices, which might perhaps sometimes arise from local circumstances. The federal city, from its centrality and the advantages which in other respects it must have over any other place in the United States, ought to be preferred as a proper site for such a university."

The term "cabal" as applied to secret factions of any kind had its rise in England about 1667, being first applied to the cabinet of Charles II. and formed from the initials of the cabinet members' names—Lord Clifford, Lord Ashley, the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Arlington and the Duke of Lauderdale—C, A, B, A, L. Since that day it has been customary, in all English speaking lands at least, to apply the name to any secret conclave, especially in politics.

The Way She Saw It.  
"You must not mock people, Hazel. Once upon a time, the Bible says, a crowd of little children mocked a good man named Elisha, and two bears came out of the forest and killed forty-two of them."  
"Wasn't that an awful thing for their mothers?"—Newark News.

Useless Telling.  
"You can always tell an Englishman," said the Briton proudly.  
"Of course you can," replied the Yankee, "but it doesn't do any good, because he thinks he knows it all."—Philadelphia Ledger.

The ONLOOKER  
HENRY HOWLAND  
MIDDLE AGE

"Oh, father, what is middle age?" asked little Richard Roe.  
"I've asked at least a dozen men, but no one seems to know," I've seen it printed many times, but never have I met a person who acknowledged he or she had reached it yet."

"I'll tell you what it is, my son," young Richard's pa replied.  
"It is the age at which a man of fifty turns aside to give his friends to understand that he is just as keen."

And gladly boyish as he was when he was seventeen.  
"It also is the age at which a man of sixty-five pretends that he expects that he will presently arrive—The age of a man of eighty thinks he reached but yesterday—The age at which a woman throws her powder puff away."

## The Genius and the Poor Stick.

Once there was a man who had two sons. One of them was a genius. All the neighbors said he was. The other was totally different. He never got into any kind of trouble. He would sometimes work in the garden. He was known to refrain from doing foolish things because he knew his parents would not wish him to do them, and he grew up without getting either of his legs broken or even losing a finger or an eye. He attracted very little attention, and nobody laughed at ordinary things that were said by him.

Did the boy who was not a genius become the president of a bank or the head of a railway system? We are compelled to admit that he did not. But it can be truthfully said that he is decently supporting a good-sized family and occasionally furnishing ball for his brother.

Stormy Weather for Pa.  
"Why, ma, where are you going in such a hurry?"

"To your pa's office," replied Mrs. Albrocks. "I just tried calling him up by telephone, and he told me to tell the office boy to say he was too busy to talk to me. I'll show him what I let him have a telephone in his office for."

Not Disposed to Take a Chance.  
"I haven't seen you out with the beautiful young widow lately."  
"No. I proposed to her one evening when we were watching the moon cast a silvery path across the water, and she wanted me to put my offer in writing. I'm afraid she has her mind too firmly set on business."

No Trouble at All.  
"Mary, did you break this cup?"  
"Yes, ma'am."  
"Oh, Mary, how could you!"  
"It was a very nice cup, ma'am. Wan little knock against the edge of the sink done it."

An Open Question.  
"Do you take this woman for better or for worse?" asked the preacher.  
"That will depend on whether her father is going to loosen up or not," replied the absent minded bridegroom.

## SIZING HIM UP.

"It's my opinion," said her father, "that your friend, young Newendrop, is a false alarm."  
"He's worse than that, pa. He's a powderless fuse."

Resented Caress.  
Jennie kissed me when we met. Jumping from the spot she sat in; Jennie's kiss was cold and wet; With the hand I held my hat in I repulsed her—pushed her back. If you like, you may put that in; Jennie did not mind my lack Of enthusiasm. Twist me On the wheel if it was folly I exhibited. I folly Well defy you to, by golly! Jennie was an eager colle— Jennie kissed me.

Not Necessary to Look.  
"Why didn't you quit trying to live on charity and look for work?"  
"Gee, ma'am, I don't need to look for work. It's staring me in the face wherever I go."

Englewood English.  
"Him and you are good friends, ain't you?"  
"Not any more. We was till busy-bodies got to circulating lies about he and I being engaged."

The Flight of Time.  
"How time flies!"  
"Yes, doesn't it! James Garfield Smith has a son who is old enough to shave and Grover Cleveland Migles is bald-headed."

St. Louis—Excise Commissioner Anderson, who has refused to renew the licenses of several down town saloons and announced that he would not renew the license of any cafe conducted improperly, received a threatening letter reading: "Say your prayers. I'll get you."

## The Daily Story

A SINGULAR UNION—BY SADIE OLCOTT.  
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George Underhill on coming of age had everything to live for. He stepped into a fortune of half a million or \$25,000 a year; was in excellent health, a favorite with his friends, especially attractive to girls, and the management of his estate was likely to give him enough to do to put an edge on his leisure moments. This was the outlook before the young man the day he was twenty-one years old.

But on that same day he noticed a swelling in his neck about the size of a hazelnut. He had never had an excrescence of any kind on his body and could not understand the sudden appearance of this one. He stood before a mirror looking at it wonderingly. He pinched it, and it hurt a little, though not much. He thought he would show it to a doctor and get his opinion upon it, but since he expected to be busy with his guardian and the lawyers nearly all day, passing the papers in receiving his estate, he deferred the matter till the morrow.

During his birthday he was so taken up with affairs pertaining to his property that he forgot all about the swelling in his neck till preparing for bed, when he noticed it again. He was a bit troubled about it and resolved that the first thing he would do in the morning would be to show it to his physician, Dr. Franklin. So as soon as the office hour of the physician came round George was admitted to his consulting room.

George did not leave Dr. Franklin's office for nearly an hour, and when he did he was in a very different mental condition from when he entered it. The lump indicated an incurable disease. The doctor tried in every way to avoid telling him this, for the double reason that his patient would suffer in mind as well as in body and his knowing that he had not long to live would hasten the end. George, however, gathered from him that he had anywhere from a few months to a few years on earth. As to how much he would suffer the doctor did not tell him. Possibly he did not know himself. He convinced his patient that he had better remain ignorant of what the disease was.

George was a philosophic fellow, and when he had recovered, so far as recovery was possible from the shock, he began to lay plans for spending the brief unexpired term of his life in a way to alleviate the condition to the best advantage. Miss Alice Woodbridge was his favorite among his girl acquaintances, and he thought he would like to have her companionship for the brief season of life left to him. He called upon her, stated the case and asked her to be his wife, agreeing to settle half his fortune upon her, the other half to be spent in such comforts or pleasures or journeys as would help him to forget his coming demise.

Miss Woodbridge asked for a few days to consider the proposition, but, being a girl with an eye to improving her condition, when she gave her answer insisted that the whole amount of his estate be settled on her except the income during his life, which she considered ample for his purpose. Whether or no she was right he did not stop to consider, but broke off the negotiations.

George tried several other girls. One who had no especial affection for him refused him on the ground that she did not care to tie herself up for a money consideration to a man who would be in a dying condition during their married life. Others balked at this or at that till at last George had well nigh gone the rounds of the girls he would care to marry. One he had not tried. She was Lucy Ellis, an amiable, happy-go-lucky girl, from whose shoulders trouble rolled off easily and whose financial necessities were such that she was quite familiar with the pawnshop.

To Miss Ellis George concluded to make a proposal, but, being somewhat discouraged in his quest for a companion better than any he had yet proposed. After modestly telling her that he thought his income would suffice as well as a larger amount for the purpose of making him forget what was coming he promised to settle his whole estate upon her if she would marry him.

To his surprise, she threw her arms about his neck and said, with tears in her eyes: "We'll spend it all. And what will a lot of money be compared with the remembrance that we shall have at least a short time together?"

"But," he protested, "what will you live on when I am gone?"  
"Why, I won't be any worse off for money than I am now, will I?"

She looked up at him from a pair of ingenuous, childlike eyes through her tears, and then and there his heart was won.

"Very well," he said. "Be it as you say."

Nevertheless it was not as he said. For George on the day of the wedding, unknown to her, placed \$100,000 in trust for her. He did not give it to her direct, for he had no confidence in her holding on to it. Since she took no part whatsoever in the management of his affairs, he was enabled to do this without her discovering that it had been done.

George found in Lucy Ellis just what he needed. Perhaps she was too sympathetic, but sympathy in dealing with a sufferer is a good fault, and George would have rather had her sympathetic than cold. But his swelling grew larger and he pained him, and he needed devotion as an invalid rather than a spender of money. For awhile after their marriage they spent money like water. In this George found his wife all that was to be desired. But his sufferings gradually increased, and he was obliged to give up pleasure seeking.

We can never tell for what persons are fitted until they are tried. Lucy, of whom her husband had expected

nothing as a nurse, rose to the occasion. Her sunny disposition proved a great comfort to him. When he was much cast down, instead of speaking words of encouragement which she did not feel she went with him. This did him more good than telling him what he knew was false, and he would say to himself: "Poor little girl! She must brace up for her sake."

George's condition grew gradually worse. He would not have doctors to visit him, because he had been told that they could do him no good. Dr. Franklin came to see him occasionally and was now and then called in to effect some temporary relief. George asked him one day to tell him the nature of his disease, but the doctor convinced him that it was better for him to remain in ignorance of it.

One day Mrs. Underhill received a note from Dr. Franklin asking her to bring her husband to his office. Many cures were being announced for different diseases by investigators, but many of them excited wild hopes only to be crushed. A cure for her husband's disease had been discovered which—starvation, in certain cases—gave temporary relief. She might tell this to the invalid, giving him to understand that the relief was expected to be only temporary. Any relief was acceptable, and, ordering a car, George was carried to the physician's office.

Dr. Franklin covered his neck with sheet lead with a hole in it large enough to admit the swelling. When else he did George could not see, and as for Lucy, she did not understand what it meant. The doctor was bringing to bear upon the swelling some invisible current, but what it was she could not know without an altogether uncommon scientific knowledge.

Several visits were made to Dr. Franklin's office, and the swelling on the patient's neck began to recede, and after awhile it became diminutive. Then one day Lucy took a morning newspaper and read to her husband a item of news. It was an announcement that the radium rays had been brought to bear on cancer and that the disease had been in certain cases undoubtedly interrupted. Whether or not radium would permanently cure it the operators had not considered themselves prepared to announce.

"Lucy," said George, looking at his wife with hope lighting his eye, "I shouldn't wonder if that's what my trouble is, and Dr. Franklin is applying radium in my case."

"I'm sure it is!" cried the wife with that impulsive embrace which was her treatment for both good and bad conditions.

George was to visit the doctor that morning. When he and his wife reached the office Lucy said to the physician: "Doctor, my husband has cancer, and a cure has been found."

"Who told you that?"  
"The newspapers."

"Well," replied the doctor thoughtfully, "we are not yet ready to announce that we have found a cure, but we feel very hopeful."

"You mean you are certain, but you won't say so for fear of raising false expectations?"

"We're pretty well satisfied that radium is death to the cancer scourge." The Underhills left the doctor's office a happy couple. Their visits to the doctor were continued, and with the continuance of the treatment the swelling returned to its original size. When it had almost entirely disappeared Lucy said to her husband one day: "George, don't you think it time we were beginning to get rid of some of this property that I married you to help spend? We haven't used half the income."

"That's just what I was thinking about. I fancy I can keep up the treatment as well in one city as another. Suppose we go abroad?"

"It's just the time of year to go, especially to Italy."

"We'll do it. By the bye, sweetheart, this discovery of radium as a cure for my trouble just came in time to prevent my having to spend our fortune alone."

"It wouldn't have been half the fun, would it?"  
"I don't suppose it would."

She gave him a kiss, after which he wrote a note to a steamship company asking for room on the vessel to sail that day two weeks and to his banker for a letter of credit.

They sailed in February for a trip to Naples and other Italian cities, and before their departure so great had become the confidence by the medical profession that efforts were being made to preserve the radium producing grounds in the United States for the benefit of the sufferers of the dread disease, which has always been one of the scourges of humanity.

And now George and Lucy Underhill are touring in Europe, but the money they were married purposely to devote to keeping up the husband's spirits is not needed. They have all the comforts and luxuries they require without encroaching on their capital.

Doesn't Feed Them.  
Slim—Our landlady says she likes to see her boarders have good appetites. Smart—Well, some women are naturally cruel.—Boston Transcript.

The future is purchased by the present.—Johnson.

Feb. 21 in American History.

1848—John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, died; born 1757.  
1908—Harriet Hosmer, noted sculptor, died; born 1821.  
1909—Carroll D. Wright, statistician and educator, died; born 1824.